



STATE SENATOR

BRUCE PATTERSON

IN THE LOOP ★

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05/05/06

→ *PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO A FRIEND!*

Guest Auctioneer for Plymouth-Canton Schools Fundraiser

Sen. Patterson will take part in the annual event, to help the school's effort, with fun and profit. Saturday, May 13, is the day; from Noon to 12:30pm is his slot. This will be broadcast on Plymouth's Salem High School Station, WSDP, 88.1FM, 9am to 10pm.

Renewable fuels progress

Six Senate bills are designed to help spur growth in Michigan's agriculture industry and promote the use of E85, a fuel blend that is 85% ethanol; and bio-diesel is a diesel fuel containing at least 5% biodiesel. Ethanol is a clean burning high-octane fuel primarily produced today from corn kernels. Biodiesel is a cleaner burning diesel fuel made from natural renewable sources such as soybean oil.

The package of bills, SBs 1074-1079, was recently recommended to the full Senate by Sen. Patterson's Committee on Technology and Energy.

Although GM and Ford are heavily investing in production of E85 vehicles, only four pumps dispense this fuel in Michigan, while Minnesota has 198 pumps and Illinois has 104 pumps statewide. SB 1074 would provide motor fuel tax exemptions on the purchase of renewable fuels. Tax breaks would be 7¢ off the 19¢ motor fuel tax on E85, or 3¢ off the 15¢ tax on diesel fuel containing at least 5% biodiesel.

Other legislation in the renewable fuel package would:

- Set strict quality-control standards for biodiesel and hydrogen fuels, and require diesel-fuel testing in Michigan;
- Require the state to install a fueling infrastructure at the Lansing state fleet garage and require all state flex fuel vehicles to fill up with E85 and diesel vehicles to use a biodiesel blend; and,
- Amend the Michigan Renaissance Zone Act by creating 10 alternative energy targeted renaissance zones. (SB 1078 is Sen. Patterson's own bill.)

Northville Seniors enjoy Breakfast with Bruce

About two dozen seniors enjoyed a complimentary breakfast with Sen. Patterson and heard interesting talks on traffic safety from Joan Rich and Officer Matt Clemence. Sen. Patterson spoke further on issues of importance to seniors, on Friday, April 28.



Northville's Trustee Marv Gans, and Parks & Rec. Director Tracy Sincock, with Sen. Patterson, chat after "Breakfast with Bruce", at the city's Senior Center.

Sumpter Volunteers honored at Luncheon, April 28

Sen. Patterson spoke warmly of the importance of volunteers, honoring some 40 who were on hand. The *Belleville View* features an article and photo, at http://www.bellevilleview.com/stories/050406/loc_20060504001.shtml

Reverence at Military Funerals is justly due

Sen. Patterson spoke passionately in regard to the solemnity and courtesy due grieving families and friends as they lay their beloved dead to rest. He said, "I'm proud to support SB 1171 by my colleague Sen. Ray Basham (D-Taylor). I believe in free speech and the right to petition for redress of grievances;" but interference at burials is "ruthless, despicable, cold, mean-spirited." The bill defines disorderly behavior at funerals as a felony, with possible fines and imprisonment. An audio link for May 3 is found at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/index.htm>

Senate acts to keep dangerous criminals off the street

The Michigan Senate unanimously passed legislation to make it explicit that Michigan Department of Corrections officials do not automatically have to release an offender accused of parole violations if an administrative hearing is not held within 45 days of the offender being incarcerated for the violation. Supporters said the change is needed after the case of Patrick Selepak, whom police and prosecutors say killed two Macomb County residents and a Genesee County man in February. Selepak should have been put back in prison after parole violations but was mistakenly paroled again because an administrative fact-finding hearing didn't take place within the specified time. According to testimony during a recent Senate hearing, corrections officials released 41 convicted felons in the past year because of the mistaken belief that the convicts had to be released if they hadn't had a hearing within 45 days of going back behind bars.

**** Remember the Mail-Carriers' Food Drive, Saturday, May 13 – Non-perishables, please! ****

Phase II of Long-Term Energy Planning gets under way

Senator Patterson, Chairman of Technology & Energy, announced Wednesday the formation of a new Workgroup to proceed toward specific legislative recommendations for Michigan. They are to report by June 10. 'Technical experts and visionaries' are to meet and build upon the report of the first Workgroup, but are free to 'revisit' its contents.

“They shall lay out, in detail, what they believe they can contribute in the way of energy and fuel 'solutions' to existing and foreseeable problems over the next two, ten, and 30 years [continuing thereafter on a rolling basis, not less frequently than every five (5) years], for all manner of customers and consumers in the Michigan market {Regulated and Unregulated energy commodities}.”

“They shall specifically provide: Benchmarks, Goals, Objectives, and Target Activities necessary and desirable to quantify and qualitatively assess progress during the quest to achieve maximum Reliability, Accessibility and Affordability across the broadest possible customer/consumer base; emphasize Environmental sensitivity, Conservation, and Efficiency, so as to minimize deleterious aspects of energy and fuel utilization.

“And, they shall create a comprehensive list of "needed" and "wanted" incentives {Regulatory, Statutory, and Financial}, as well as Obstacles, Impediments, and Disincentives {Private Sector, Public Sector and Governmental} to be scrutinized and contemplated by Policy-makers during their subsequent deliberations.”

See DFP article: <http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060504/BUSINESS06/605040330&template=printart>

Congressional apportionments

The Senate approved a resolution urging Congress to adopt a constitutional amendment to ensure congressional seat apportionment is based on the census count of *legal citizens* only. Senate Resolution 105 is in response to the impact illegal immigrants are having on distribution of congressional seats. Seats are now apportioned based on each state's census total, including both legal and non-legal residents. While Michigan and other states have populations of more than 95% legal U.S. citizens, that is not the case for all states. Some statistics are startling. California's 31st Congressional District has only 60% of the “persons” listed as legal citizens. The other 40% can impact congressional representation even though they cannot legally vote. Continued loss of congressional representation by states like Michigan will have significant long-term policy impact. *E.g.*, issues such as water diversion from the Great Lakes could be tilted toward Southwestern states like Arizona if the current apportionment system continues.

Boating Safety

With hot weather right around the corner, there's no better place to spend a Michigan summer than on the water. But before you take to the waves for fun and adventure, please remember - boating and alcohol don't mix. Alcohol was involved in 32 percent of all reported boating fatalities in the United States in 2004. U.S. Coast Guard statistics indicate that boat operators with a blood alcohol concentration above .10 percent are 10 times more likely to be killed in a boating accident than boaters with no alcohol in their system. Many boaters don't realize alcohol can be even more hazardous on water than on land. As when driving a vehicle, alcohol impairs judgment, reaction time, balance and vision. Out on the water, though, environmental factors such as sun, wind and motion can magnify the effects of alcohol and accelerate a drinker's impairment. The misuse of alcohol is not only dangerous, it's illegal. Michigan law forbids boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs, providing stiff penalties. Boaters should know that by operating a boat on Michigan waters they consent to testing for alcohol or drugs if arrested.

'Comcast Newsmakers' to feature Sen. Patterson

On the cable channel which brings you CNN-Headline News, at the times listed below, from May 8 through May 14, an interview with Senator Patterson will be aired throughout Southeast Michigan. The times asterisked are the more reasonable times, at six minutes before the hour.

Cable affiliates are only afforded limited time for local features of interest. Sen. Patterson addresses the energy issues that are of prime concern today.

Senator Bruce Patterson

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5/8	5/9	5/10	5/11	5/12	5/13	5/14
2:54 AM	2:54 AM	2:54 AM	2:54 AM	2:54 AM	12:54 AM	12:54 AM
6:54 AM	6:54 AM	6:54 AM	6:54 AM	6:54 AM	4:54 AM	4:54 AM
*12:54 PM	*12:54 PM	*12:54 PM	*12:54 PM	*12:54 PM	*9:54 AM	*9:54 AM
*4:54 PM	*4:54 PM	*4:54 PM	*4:54 PM	*4:54 PM	*2:54 PM	*2:54 PM
					*7:54 PM	*7:54 PM

Comcast Newsmakers airs on CNN-Headline News; check your local listing.

Office Hours schedule for May, 2006

Sue Trussell, Sen. Patterson's District Representative, will hold office hours at different locations each week. Office Hours will be on Mondays, from 11 am to 1 pm.

May 8th -- Gibraltar City Hall, 28002 North Gibraltar Road

May 15th -- Coffee Lounge, 45610 Cherry Hill (just W. of Canton Center Rd), Canton

May 22nd -- Mochavation Café, 8537 Macomb Street, Grosse Ile, with *time change*:
9 am to 11 am.

Upcoming event: Breakfast with Bruce

Trenton, Westfield Center - May 19th

Details coming soon.

Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in our current state issues. If you would like to receive future updates via e-mail, please contact my office at < senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov >.

You can also visit me in my Lansing office at 505 Farnum Building, just across S. Capitol Avenue from the state Capitol; or you can send me mail at P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909. Telephone (517) 373-7350 or (866) 262-7307; fax (517) 373-9228. I want to hear from you.

See the *Legislative Questionnaire* on the Website, too! Your responses are welcomed!